

with thrust on enhanced exports. A new policy was formulated which came into effect from 1st April 2000. At present, the scheme is reviewed annually by the JMDC, keeping in view the market conditions, and extended with suitable modifications.

(d) In order to assist jute growers, Government declares Minimum Support Price of raw jute/mesta every year. In addition, Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987, provides for compulsory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging material, which helps jute growers in marketing their produce. A Centrally sponsored Scheme on Special Jute Development Programme was in operation from 1992-93. This scheme since, October 2000 has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture providing flexibility to State Governments to take up need-based programmes.

**New scheme for weavers**

1197. Shrimati BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for weavers in the country during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Government has not formulated any new scheme for Handloom Weavers in the country during the year 2001-2002.

(b) to (d) The reasons for not formulating any new scheme for handloom weavers during the current financial year are that generally no new scheme is formulated in the last year of the plan and that the Union Government had formulated and launched a comprehensive and integrated scheme for handloom weavers called the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) only a year ago, i.e. in the year 2000-2001 with a budget provision of Rs.93.95 crore for the

[28 November 2001]      RAJYA SABHA

last two years of the plan. The need for launching yet another new scheme and that too, in the last year of the Ninth Plan was, therefore, not felt.

**Export of cotton**

1198. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy formulated by Government with regard to export of cotton;

(b) whether Government have proposed to grant some financial relief to weavers in the country; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Export of cotton is free without any restrictions.

(b) and (c) Assistance to weavers are provided under various schemes of the Government. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme, Health Package Scheme for Handloom weavers are a few such schemes.

**Production of hand-woven cloth**

1199. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of hand-woven cloth in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance given by Government to encourage Handloom Industries during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage Handloom Industries in tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The handloom industry being decentralised in nature, State-wise figures of production of cloth in this sector are not possible to collect or work